

REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 15, 2005, with claims 1-40. The present application claims priority to PCT application US04/21846, filed July 9, 2004, and U.S. provisional application Serial No. 60/486,127, filed July 10, 2003. Prior to the present amendment, claims 1-40 were pending in the present application, including independent claims 1 and 35-40.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 14, 16, 37 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by chapter 12 of Menezes et al., "Handbook of Applied Cryptography." (hereinafter "Menezes").

Claims 3-5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Menezes.

Claims 13, 35, 36, 38 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Menezes in view of Official Notice.

Claims 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18 and 27-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Menezes in view of one or more other cited references.

Claims 10 and 19-26 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

With regard to the present rejections, although Applicants respectfully traverse for at the least the reasons identified in Applicants' prior responses, Applicants have nonetheless amended the claims without prejudice solely in order to expedite issuance of the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended so as to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 9 and 10, which have accordingly been canceled without prejudice. Corresponding amendments have been made to independent claims 35-40. Applicants respectfully maintain that the independent claims, as previously presented, were patentable for the reasons heretofore made of record in Applicants' prior responses, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue such claims in one or more continuing applications.

Applicants have rewritten allowable dependent claims 19 and 20 into independent form by incorporating the limitations of claim 1 as previously presented. Applicants have added new claims 41 and 42, which each include limitations similar to those of dependent claim 20.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance without requiring further search or consideration on the part of the Examiner and accordingly request entry of the present amendment under 37 CFR 1.116(b).

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 15, 2011

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